

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated October 30, 2003, the Examiner noted that the reply filed on June 6, 2003 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because Applicants did not present arguments pointing out specific distinctions believed to render the new claims 21-24 patentable over the applied reference(s). Applicants contacted the Examiner by telephone on November 19, 2003 to clarify the date of the prior reply and to inquire if the Examiner had received the RCE filing made on September 9, 2003. The Examiner stated he had received the RCE and that the Applicants had indeed actually filed the prior reply/RCE on September 9, 2003. However, the Examiner stated that his ruling that Applicants were not fully responsive in the last reply still stands.

New claims 21-24 were added in the September 9, 2003 reply and are now identified herein as being "Previously presented". Thus, claims 1-24 remain pending in this application.

New claims 21-24 contain specific distinctions believed to render the claims patentable over the applied references. More particularly, independent claim 21 is similar to independent claim 1, but includes the further limitation of a "bi-directional communication link configured to enable a user to interact with the computer peripheral device to obtain information on a consumable for one computer peripheral device including at least one of consumable levels, media levels and types, warnings, notifications, job assurance, and printer capabilities". Independent claim 21 also includes the further limitation of "a server communicating with one of the personal computer and the least one computer peripheral device and including a centralized management database having information pulled from the Internet and comprising at least one of consumable part numbers, alternative consumable part numbers, and information for selecting a reseller". Taking independent claim 21 as a whole, the combination of a personal computer with at least one peripheral device having the recited bi-directional communication link, a consumable order assistance program, and the recited server communicating with one of the personal computer and the at least one computer peripheral device including a centralized management database having information pulled

from the Internet and comprising at least one of consumable part numbers, alternative consumable part numbers, and information for selecting a reseller does not appear to be taught or appear to be obvious in light of the prior art of record. Accordingly, such limitations are believed to be distinctions that render the new claims patentable over the applied references, but it is also believed that such specific distinctions are to be read with all the limitations of independent claim 21.

Dependent claim 22 provides a further, narrower specific distinction wherein "at least one of the server and the at least one computer peripheral device proactively generates a warning to a user at the personal computer comprising information on an upcoming issue regarding maintenance and operation of a selected computer peripheral device". Such specific distinction is believed to render the claim patentable over the applied references.

Dependent claim 23 includes the specific distinction where "the personal computer includes an application interface comprising an extended data interface". Such specific distinction, when taken within the claims as a whole, is believed to render claim 23 patentable over the applied references.

Dependent claim 24 provides the specific distinction "wherein the centralized management database is configured for interaction with a maintainer at the personal computer to enable determination of when to replace a consumable as well as at least one of what consumable to replace, alternative parts for the associated peripheral device, issue urgency, proactive warning of one or more next issues, computer peripheral device location, owner/contact information, computer peripheral device model information, and impending maintenance notification". Such specific distinctions, when taken within the claim as a whole, are believed to render claim 24 patentable over the applied references.

Applicants' arguments previously recited in "Amendment D" are carried forward herein, including the outstanding response to rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 wherein Applicants previously requested reconsideration.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner either allow claims 1-24 or provide references that support taking Official Notice, pursuant to

the procedures established by 37 C.F.R. §1.107(b) (1993) expressly entitling an applicant, on mere request, to an examiner affidavit to provide such citations.

Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

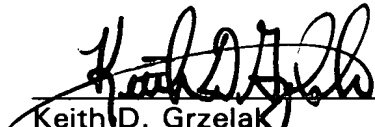
For all the reasons advanced above, as well as those advanced in previous Amendment D, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next anticipated action is to be anything other than a Notice of Allowance, the undersigned respectfully requests a telephone interview before issuance of any such subsequent action.

Respectfully submitted,

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